

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ESTRELLA ALBA-CRUZ,
LUIS ALBERTO RAMOS-MARTINEZ,

Defendants.

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8:05CR94

**PRELIMINARY ORDER
OF FORFEITURE**

This matter is before the Court on the United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture and Memorandum Brief (Filing No. 166). The Court reviews the record in this case and, being duly advised in the premises, finds as follows:

1. The Defendants have entered into Plea Agreements, whereby the Defendant, Luis Alberto Ramos-Martinez agreed to plead guilty to Counts I and IV and the Defendant, Estrella Alba-Cruz, agreed to plead guilty to Counts I, VI and VII of said Indictment. Count I of said Indictment charges the Defendants with conspiracy to distribute cocaine, a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846. Count VI of said Indictment charges the Defendant, Estrella Alba-Cruz, with being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(5)(A). Counts IV charges Ramos-Martinez with using \$1,300.00 in United States currency to facilitate the commission of the conspiracy and charges said personal properties are derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the commission of the conspiracy ("criminal forfeiture"). Count VII charges Alba-Cruz with criminal forfeiture with respect to the \$1,132 described in that count.

2. By virtue of said pleas of guilty, the Defendants forfeit their interest in the subject properties, and the United States should be entitled to possession of said properties, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853.

IT IS ORDERED:

A. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture (Filing No. 166) is hereby sustained.

B. Based upon Counts IV and VII of the Indictment and the Defendants' pleas of guilty, the United States Marshal for the District of Nebraska ("Marshal") is hereby authorized to seize the following-described properties: \$1,300.00 and \$1,132.00 in United States currency

C. The Defendants' interest in said properties are hereby forfeited to the United States of America for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1).

D. The aforementioned forfeited properties are to be held by the Marshal in his secure custody and control.

E. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), the Marshal forthwith shall publish at least once for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, in the county where the subject properties are situated, notice of this Order, notice of the Marshal's intent to dispose of the properties in such manner as the Attorney General may direct, and notice that any person, other than the Defendant, having or claiming a legal interest in any of the subject forfeited properties must file a Petition with the court within thirty (30) days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

F. Said published notice shall state the Petition referred to in Paragraph E., above, shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the Petitioner's alleged interest in the properties, shall be signed by the Petitioner under penalty of perjury, and shall set forth the nature and extent of the Petitioner's right, title or interest in the subject properties and any additional facts supporting the Petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

G. The United States may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the properties subject to this Order as a substitute for published notice as to those persons so notified.

H. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

s/Laurie Smith Camp
United States District Court